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SO MANY WAYS TO INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE



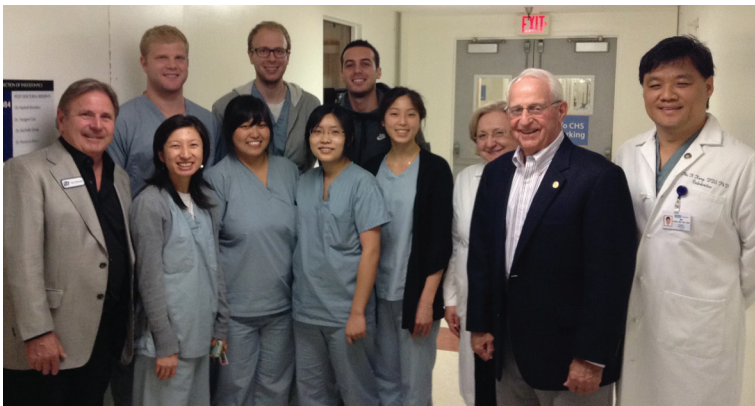
Dear Colleague:

Generosity doesn't come in "one size fits all."

There are as many ways to give as there are reasons for giving. The AAE Foundation wants to make your gift a perfect fit. This issue of *Focus* highlights strategies for donors in a variety of circumstances. Whether you are just starting your professional life, retired or somewhere in between, there is a plan that's right for you.

Gifts sometimes come from unexpected places. You can read about my own unique experience with a grateful patient in this newsletter. My story demonstrates that opportunities for giving may be close at hand, if you are aware of the options. The grateful patient form is enclosed with this newsletter. Perhaps you'll be able to use it to increase your own pledge. Gifts of stock, charitable trusts and bequests are examples of other avenues that donors can take to extend their reach.

While a six-figure pledge makes our hearts skip a beat, entry-level donors are equally important. Pledges from residents are the seeds that grow our future. As students go on



Residents and faculty from the University of California at Los Angeles welcomed AAE Foundation Student Ambassadors Mr. Tom Kennedy and Dr. A. Eddy Skidmore to their institution for an afternoon of fellowship and learning about what the AAE Foundation can provide them.



Current AAE Foundation President Dr. Louis E. Rossman and Immediate Past President Dr. Keith V. Krell join Foundation donor Dr. Albert C. Goerig at the 2014 Leadership Donor Reception in Washington, D.C. Just before the reception began, Dr. Goerig increased his personal pledge to \$250,000, helping the Foundation come closer to its fundraising goal.



During APICES 2014 hosted by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, AAE Foundation President Dr. Louis E. Rossman led the students in some exercises to engage their bodies and minds before his panel discussion on the Foundation. APICES is the only meeting created by endodontic residents for endodontic residents.

to build their practices and learn more about the specialty's needs, a \$2,000 pledge has the potential to, someday, become \$25,000.

Donors who pledge \$25,000 are the heavy lifters. They provide the leadership and the muscle to reach ambitious goals. The profiles in this newsletter contrast the enthusiasm of new donors with the loyalty and commitment of members who are at the top of the giving pyramid. I hope you enjoy reading about their distinct perspectives.

At AAE15 in Seattle, we look forward to celebrating a successful fundraising campaign with \$1.25 million pledged to research and education. Success will depend on generosity of all kinds. We hope the stories you read here may inspire you to make your first pledge or try a new way of increasing your support. Most importantly, remember that your gift is an investment that goes right back to work to support your practice, your profession and your future!



With appreciation,

Louis E. Rossman, D.M.D., President



Representatives from the University of Maryland were presented with a \$25,000 check as one of the first recipients of the AAE Foundation/DENTSPLY Innovation in Research Grant in June 2014.



Many endodontic residents participated in the 2014 Live Auction in Washington, D.C., by bidding on the Song Contest that took place as a unique way to raise funds. Past President Dr. Keith V. Krell impressed attendees with his many renditions of "Root Canal Away the Pain!"



University of Toronto was the other recipient of the AAE Foundation/DENTSPLY Innovation in Research Grant in 2014. The intent of the grant is to highlight and promote excellence at multiple institutions and to support startup research efforts and established research programs looking to explore new directions.



At each AAE annual meeting, the Foundation's Donor Honor Wall is an impressive way to showcase every endodontist and corporation committed to improving the future of the specialty.

Peter A. Morgan
President-Elect

Mary T. Pettiette
Secretary

Jack Burlison
Treasurer

Robert S. Roda
AAE President

MAJOR EFFORTS PRO

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Major donors are defined by different denominations at organizations across the nation. For example, a local food pantry may consider a one-time, \$100 contribution a major gift, and a campaign for a presidential hopeful may only consider a donor major if their contribution has six figures. At the AAE Foundation, a major donor has made a pledge or gift at the Founder level—\$10,000—or greater. This commitment proves enthusiasm, dedication and promise to the specialty of endodontics. Many Foundation donors attain Founder status by beginning their philanthropic journey at the entry level (Patron, \$2,000). Whatever the vehicle, the Foundation is grateful for its gracious donors who value supporting the future of endodontics. The Foundation has a cumulative pledge recognition system and believes that donors should be honored for their lifetime of giving.

AAE Foundation donors are undoubtedly the lifeblood of the organization. Every gift is important and is celebrated by the Foundation, especially when it involves engaging first time and young endodontists; however, major gifts have the unique ability to push a campaign to its tipping point and beyond!

Case in point: at the Foundation's 2014 Leadership Donor Reception, major donor Dr. Albert C. Goerig announced that he was increasing his pledge by \$150,000 to the Platinum \$250,000 level. Dr. Goerig's commitment to a lifetime of giving is certainly commendable.

Other donors, like Dr. Cheryl L. Ullman, have provided a career's worth of major gifts through various methods, including pledge increases and gifts of stock. Dr. Ullman admitted it took her some time get on board and understand her responsibility to support her fellow endodontists and the specialty, but eventually, she did. "It's never too late," she said. "Go for it; don't wait, just do it." By December 2014, Dr. Ullman was a veteran at increasing her pledge and chose to advance to the Titanium level, \$100,000! Her motivation came from a personal experience at a past Leadership Donor Reception.

"I remember being at a reception when my colleague, and now one of my son's teachers, Dr. Noah Chivian, encouraged those of us who had reached our pledge amount to go to the next level," said Dr. Ullman. "I stepped up that evening and have been doing so ever since."

Dr. Ullman is encouraged by the hard work of Foundation volunteers. "The AAE Foundation is *our* organization. The people involved with the Foundation work to secure our position in the profession and in the world; I believe that all endodontists need to support the Foundation if we want our specialty to thrive."

Major gifts come in many shapes and sizes. Sometimes these contributions even come from grateful patients. After treating Mr. Walter Annenberg, former ambassador to the United Kingdom, at his practice in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, current Foundation President Dr. Louis E. Rossman was

RWARD

inspired by the philanthropist. “As an ambassador, his philanthropic efforts supported education and furthering and benefiting mankind,” Dr. Rossman said. “He was very enthusiastic about supporting causes he thought could make the world better.”

After careful consideration, Dr. Rossman wrote a proposal to Ambassador Annenberg sharing with him the Foundation’s work and what the organization was trying to accomplish for the specialty. In appreciation for the treatment Dr. Rossman provided him, Ambassador Annenberg agreed to make a gift of \$100,000 to the AAE Foundation in 1997. This generous patient provided more than just a monetary contribution to the organization, but an understanding that the idea of philanthropy is universal.

Dr. Rossman worked hard to secure this major gift for the Foundation and he was dedicated to looking beyond the scope of prospective donors to do so. After one of his treatments, Dr. Rossman recalls Ambassador Annenberg sitting up in his chair and exclaiming “Dr. Rossman, remember this: you are only as good as your last effort.” That statement resonated with Dr. Rossman, and his enthusiastic efforts to advance and serve the AAE Foundation are certainly still apparent.

Each pledge, regardless of the amount, is an important contribution to the specialty. Major donors are another piece of the puzzle. The AAE Foundation encourages and supports donors giving within their means, and Foundation staff is available to discuss a gift that fits your needs.

“ I remember being at a reception when my colleague encouraged those of us who had reached our pledge amount to go to the next level.

I STEPPED UP THAT EVENING AND HAVE BEEN DOING SO EVER SINCE. ”

— Cheryl L. Ullman, D.M.D.



THE AAE FOUNDATION proudly acknowledges the following companies for their generous contributions to support endodontic research and education.

\$ 1,260,000



\$ 75,000

Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc.
Global Surgical Corporation
Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc.
Obtura Spartan

\$ 1,000,000



\$ 50,000

Acadental
Aseptico, Inc.
ASI Medical, Inc.
Brasseler USA
EndoTechnologies, LLC
Sonendo, Inc
Ultradent Products, Inc.

\$ 325,000



\$ 40,000

Charles B. Schwed Co., Inc.

\$ 200,000



\$ 30,000

ColteneEndo

\$ 175,000



\$ 25,000

American Dental Partners
Aspen Dental
Edge Endo
Elsevier, Inc.
Patterson Dental Supply
Phase II Associates
Real World Endo
SS White Dental
TDO
Ultimate Dental - A Division of Endoco
Wells Fargo
XDR Radiology

\$ 145,000



\$ 140,000



\$ 85,000



\$ 5,000

Septodont

The Foundation Welcomes TDO to THE HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

TDO was founded by AAE member Gary B. Carr, D.D.S. The company, based in San Diego, began with a commercial launch of software in early 2000. With a goal of bettering the endodontic specialty, TDO provides endodontic practice management software that supports major dental imaging technologies. The organization provides and emphasizes a global network of practitioners.



TDO stands proudly as part of the AAE Foundation's Donor Honor Roll.

The Foundation recently asked TDO to elaborate on the company's contribution as well as their take on the future of the specialty.

Q: Why did TDO make a pledge to the Foundation?

A: We believe that supporting endodontic research is the duty of every endodontist and every company involved in providing products to the endodontic market. To the extent that the Foundation furthers serious endodontic research, we support its goals and hope such research enhances the credibility of our specialty as a science.

Q: The AAE Foundation is investing significant resources to support the future of endodontics. How does TDO see the future evolving?

A: The future of endodontics is directly related to two main factors that must occur to preserve our future: a strengthening of our evidential base as a science, and a recommitment of practicing clinicians to providing the highest standard of care for their patients, which results in the long-term retention of the natural dentition.

Q: The pursuit of excellence in endodontics is a challenge for everyone in the profession. How is TDO supporting endodontists to ensure a prosperous future for the specialty?

A: TDO was originally created as a research tool to provide clinicians with an ideal data set so that rigorous analysis could provide us with knowledge of best practices that informs our decision making and treatment protocols.

Planned Gifts for a **LIFETIME**

Planned gifts and deferred planned gifts are additional ways donors can support the AAE Foundation. There are almost as many variations of ways to make a donation as there are personal needs to be met. The Foundation will help you create a gift that takes your personal circumstances and the needs of your heirs into consideration.

There are three basic types of deferred gifts:



GIFTS THAT PAY YOU INCOME

Charitable Gift Annuity

Through a simple contract, you agree to make a donation of cash, stocks or other assets to the AAE Foundation. In return, you (and someone else, if you choose) receives a fixed amount each year for the rest of your lifetime.

Charitable Remainder Trust

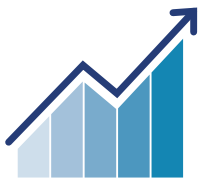
With a charitable remainder trust, you or other named individuals can receive income each year for life, or a period not exceeding 20 years, from assets you give to the trust you create. Payments can be either variable or a fixed amount. After the life of the named individuals or the set period of years, the balance in the trust goes to the charities of your choice.



GIFTS YOU MAKE TODAY

Charitable Lead Trusts

You give assets to a trust that pays the AAE Foundation an income for a number of years, which you choose. The longer the length of time, the better the gift tax savings for you. When the term is up, the remaining trust assets go to you, your family or other beneficiaries you select. This is an excellent way to transfer property to family members down the line (typically children and grandchildren) at a minimal cost.



GIFTS THAT MAKE AN IMPACT AFTER YOUR LIFETIME

Bequest

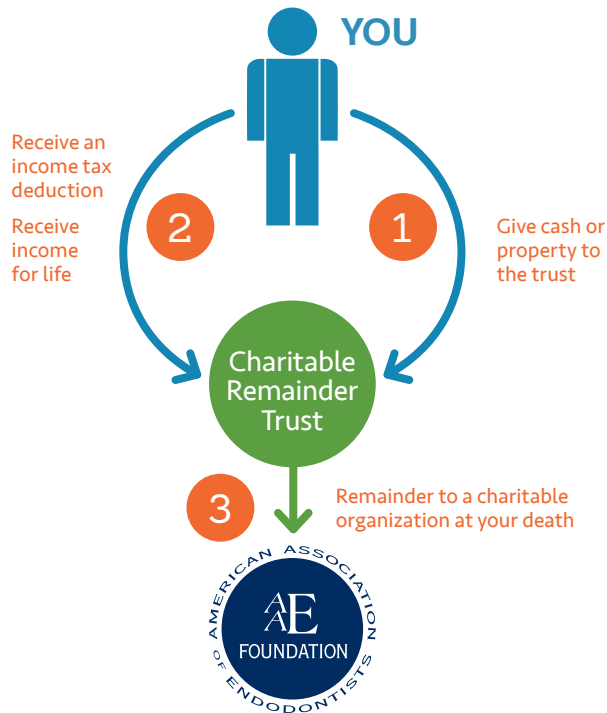
To make a charitable bequest, you need a current will or revocable living trust. Your gift can be made as a percentage of your estate. Or you can make a specific bequest by giving a certain amount of cash, securities or property. After your lifetime, the AAE Foundation receives your gift.

Beneficiary Designations

Naming the individuals and charities that will receive your assets once you are gone can be a simple process. Most assets can pass to your intended beneficiaries by the terms of your will. Other assets, such as retirement plans, life insurance and insurance annuities, however, are not controlled by the terms of your will. These assets instead require separate beneficiary forms. The beneficiaries of these assets can be easily modified at any time to meet your changing needs.

of PHILANTHROPY

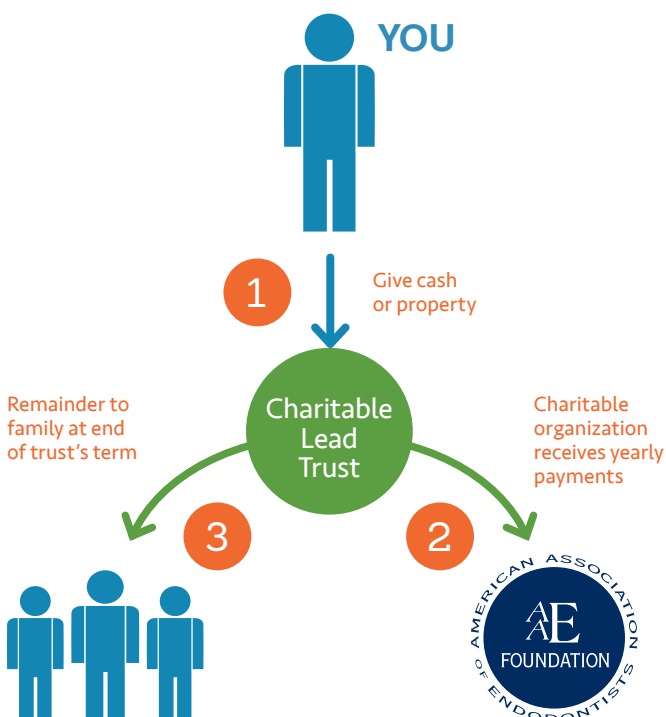
Charitable Remainder Trust



The Foundation has simplified the process of bequeathing a gift with the iWill Match! program. iWill Match allows donors to extend their giving beyond their lifetime. Donors with a pledge of \$10,000 or more can match that pledge with a bequest of an equal amount. The ease of this process has been beneficial to many interested donors. The iWill Match form, with suggested language for insertion in your will, can be found on the AAE Foundation's website or by contacting a staff member for more information.

The AAE Foundation also accepts gifts of stock. This process is an easy and simple way to make a one-time contribution towards your current pledge balance or an outright gift. If interested, a donor should contact the AAE Foundation and alert them to their gift of stock. The donor should also forward the appropriate form, found on the Foundation's website, to their delivering broker to initiate the gift. The donor (or their delivering broker) should follow the instructions on the form and fax a copy back to the Foundation.

Charitable Lead Trusts



Approaching the end of 2014, Dr. John W. Willoughby, longtime Foundation supporter, provided the Foundation with a gift of stock greater than \$10,000. After providing the Foundation a variety of different gifts during his career and including the Foundation as a beneficiary of his personal insurance policy, Dr. Willoughby found that a gift of stock would allow him to make a one-time gift when the valuation of his stock was high. This extremely tax-efficient gift has become increasingly popular in recent years, due to its ability to provide the donor with a tax break for the full fair market value. Since the stock is donated rather than sold, the more appreciation the holdings have, the greater the tax savings will be!

To learn more about deferred gifts, please visit www.aae.org/foundation and select **Estate Planning**.

Residents Make Early Commitment to **ENDODONTIC EXCELLENCE**

Residency is often remembered fondly as a time when endodontists met some of their closest friends and colleagues, found a lifelong mentor and spent days pursuing their passion. However, in the moment, student life can seem tough! Financial concerns coupled with long hours spent in the clinic, all while trying to maintain a personal life and plan for the future, can lead to exhaustion and apprehension. But against all odds, endodontic residents are persevering and making pledges to the AAE Foundation! By taking this commendable step in the formative stages of their careers, residents show their commitment to the future of the specialty.

The relationship between residents and the Foundation is one that volunteers, called Student Ambassadors, try to emphasize early on as an important one. Student Ambassadors visit as many endodontic institutions as possible each year. The goal is to open dialogue with the future specialists, to discuss their needs and what the Foundation can do for them.

The Foundation prides itself on supporting residents as they develop in their careers. In fact, every resident in the U.S. and Canada is eligible for a one-time \$500 grant to fund activities related to research. The money can be used for variety of educational initiatives. The Foundation also provides every first-year resident a copy of the textbook, "Successful Local Anesthesia for Restorative Dentistry and Endodontics." Several other competitive grant opportunities are also available.

However, volunteers don't just highlight the material offerings available to residents. They emphasize the importance of philanthropy and giving back to a specialty that will provide for their futures. The AAE Foundation is the only organization exclusively dedicated to supporting endodontic research and education; it provides support to every accredited endodontic program. Research preserves the specialty status of endodontists, so the Foundation's support is imperative to the success every AAE member's career.

During Student Ambassador visits, residents are often asked to make an entry-level pledge to the Foundation. Volunteers are continually impressed with the generosity of residents during their post graduate studies. Though residents do not have to begin making payments on their pledges until after their graduation date, it is still commendable to commit during this developmental period.

During the 2014-2015 fundraising campaign, many institutions already have 100% of their residents committed to the Foundation. Any institution at which every resident makes a pledge will receive a \$2,000 award.

As of March 15, the following institutions were awarded for having 100% of residents pledged:

Albert Einstein Medical Center

Indiana University

Louisiana State University

Medical University of South Carolina

New York University

Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry

University of Alabama

University of California at San Francisco

University of Detroit Mercy

University of Florida

University of Iowa

University of Michigan

University of Minnesota

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of the Pacific

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

University of Toronto

Virginia Commonwealth University

West Virginia University

With so many residents joining the ranks of notable endodontic philanthropists early in their careers, **the future of the specialty is bright and in good hands!**



NAME	INSTITUTION	PROJECT	FUNDING
Mohamed Ahmed	Boston University	Directed Differentiation of Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells Into Pulp Regenerating Progenitors	\$ 22,000
Sara Fayazi *	University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Evaluation of Cell Homing Strategy Using the Organotype Regenerative Endodontic Model	\$ 12,010
Michael D. Hosking	University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Ex Vivo Evaluation of Pulpal Transplantation	\$ 12,532
Elana V. Kan	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Periapical Microsurgery: The Effects of Locally Injected Dexamethasone on Post-operative Healing	\$ 3,327
Sahng Gyoon Kim	Columbia University	Regeneration of the Pulp-dentin Complex by Cell Homing	\$ 18,868
Helena Lim	University of Toronto	Microstrains and Micro-defects in Root Dentin: Effect of Root Canal Instrumentation	\$ 11,901
Nikita Ruparel *	Loma Linda University	Effect of an Activated Immune System on Stem Cells of the Apical Papilla	\$ 16,103
Emi Shimizu	New York University	Role of Eph/ephrin Signaling in Direct Pulp Capping	\$ 10,000
I-Ping Chen *	University of Connecticut	Application of a 3-dimensional Culture Model in Endodontic Research	\$ 23,000
Anibal Diogenes	University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Decellularized Dental Pulp as a Scaffold for Regenerative Endodontics	\$ 22,072
Alexandra Garraton	University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	Characterization of Immune Regulatory and Inflammatory Cells in Human Periapical Lesions	\$ 5,000
Brandon Glenn	Ohio State University	Evaluation of Liposomal Bupivacaine for Post-operative Pain in Symptomatic Teeth with a Pulpal Diagnosis of Necrosis	\$ 13,366
Su-Min Lee *	University of Pennsylvania	New Therapeutic Approaches for Dental Pulpitis Using an Anti-inflammatory Strategy and Endogenous Dental Pulp Stem Cells	\$ 20,000
Brent Moore	University of Toronto	Impacts of Contracted Endodontic Cavity Designs on Root Canal Instrumentation Efficacy and Biomechanical Response in Maxillary and Mandibular Molars	\$ 24,525
Ali Nosrat	University of Maryland	The Effects of Residual Bacteria on Dental Pulp Regeneration	\$ 14,452
Valerie Okehie	University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	SNA Methylation Levels as a Potential Biomarker in the Development of Apical Periodontitis	\$ 9,752
Jeffrey Parker	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	CBCT Uses in Clinical Endodontics - Part 1: Effect of CBCT on the Ability to Locate MB2 in Maxillary Molars; Part 2: Specificity and Sensitivity of Detecting Periapical Lesions Using CBCT	\$ 3,900
Maobin Yang	Temple University	Spatial Control of Pulp-dentin Complex Regeneration Using a Tissue-engineered Biomimetic Scaffold	\$ 17,038

SPRING 2014 RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

FALL 2014 RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

* Indicates researcher who received \$500 for highest scoring proposal.



WINNER'S CIRCLE



RESIDENT

**Sara Fayazi,
D.D.S., M.S.**

University of Texas Health
Science Center at San Antonio

Since the beginning of her endodontic training at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio,

Dr. Sara Fayazi has taken an interest in clinical studies aimed toward regenerative procedures. "Although there's been significant progress in developing regenerative endodontic procedures, a gap in knowledge exists regarding the best way to progressively deliver stem cells concomitantly with angiogenesis into the root canal space," said Dr. Fayazi.

Dr. Fayazi submitted the highest-scoring resident research proposal in the spring 2014. In her project, entitled "Evaluation of Cell Homing Strategy Using the Organotype Regenerative Endodontic Model," Dr. Fayazi hypothesized that different growth factors, such as granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF), stromal cell-derived factor-1, transforming growth factor beta-1, platelet-derived growth factor or fibroblast growth factor (FGF-2), would elicit a different extent of chemotaxis on the stem cells of apical papilla (SCAP).

The findings of this study will be significant to the specialty. "Cell homing approaches allow apically positioned stem cells to progressively migrate coronally concomitantly with angiogenesis," said Dr. Fayazi. "G-CSF and FGF-2 evoke maximum chemotactic activity on SCAP and are likely growth factor adjuvants in future cell homing approaches in regenerative endodontic procedures. Using appropriate growth factors with a scaffold could be a substitute for evoking bleeding by over instrumentation in regenerative treatment."

Dr. Fayazi is fascinated by regenerative endodontics, and she is particularly interested in translating basic research findings into improved regenerative endodontic procedures, which have a concrete role in the treatment of teeth with immature apices. "Future research may suggest an expanded role for regenerative endodontic procedures in the treatment of teeth with mature apices," said Dr. Fayazi. "I want to be a continued key part of that research."

In her spare time, Dr. Fayazi enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter and swimming and camping.



FACULTY

**Nikita B. Ruparel,
D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.**

University of Texas Health
Science Center at San Antonio

Dr. Nikita B. Ruparel has taken a significant interest in understanding the mechanisms by which stem cells of apical

papilla (SCAP) interact with immune cells to promote their health and survival. In her highest-scoring faculty research proposal, entitled "Effect of an Activated Immune System on Stem Cells of the Apical Papilla," Dr. Ruparel hypothesizes, "SCAP release anti-inflammatory mediators to fight the immune cell insults, thereby not only promoting their survival but also aiding in counterbalancing the spread of periapical lesion by switching the periapical environment from a pro-inflammatory to an anti-inflammatory one."

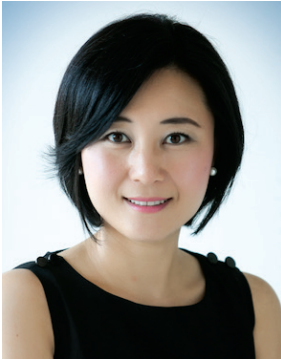
In order for optimal regenerative outcomes to occur, the survival and fate of stem cells is critical. "SCAP appear to be subjected to a wide variety of bacterial and immune cell insults. How the quiescent stem cells survive this inflammatory milieu remains unknown," said Dr. Ruparel.

Dr. Ruparel is extremely interested and has a strong background in pain biology and regenerative endodontics. Regenerative endodontics is a new and rapidly growing field that already has clinical applications in patients with immature teeth and pulp necrosis. "Understanding the cellular interactions of stem cells provides greater insight into the biology of the regenerative phenomenon, which can then be manipulated for an optimal outcome," said Dr. Ruparel.

Dr. Ruparel is currently an assistant professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. In her spare time, she absolutely loves traveling and going on hikes with family and friends.

SPRING WINNERS

During the fall and spring research grant cycles, the highest-scoring resident and faculty research grant proposals receive a \$500 cash award. The goal is to pay tribute to those applicants whose efforts reflect the highest quality science.



RESIDENT

**Su-Min Lee,
D.D.S.**

University of
Pennsylvania

Dr. Su-Min Lee received the highest-scoring resident proposal honor during the fall of 2014.

Her project, entitled, "New

Therapeutic Approaches for Dental Pulpitis Using an Anti-inflammatory Strategy and Endogenous Dental Pulp Stem Cells," aims to elucidate the important role of NLRP3 inflammasome activation in immunopathology of dental pulp tissue, with a goal of providing the basis for an immunology-based vital pulp therapy in the future. The second part of her project will explore pharmacological and stem cell-based approaches to harness the inflammatory environment of the dental pulp by the inhibition of NLRP3 inflammasome activation and/or the enhancement of immunomodulatory function of dental pulp stem cells.

The findings of this project are significant to the specialty in various ways. This approach will shed new light on the feasibility of pulpal stem cells to harness inflammatory response and optimize pulpal regeneration. "This novel approach is a paradigm shift from current ablative endodontic treatment targeting the removal or extirpation of inflamed or/and necrotic pulp tissues in dental pulpitis," said Dr. Lee.

Since endodontics is in a transitional period with regenerative endodontics in its infancy, Dr. Lee "hopes her study provides easy-to-understand explanations about translational regenerative concepts and easy-to-deliver clinical procedures to clinicians." Dr. Lee will certainly have a great impact on the specialty with her deep commitment to endodontics and dental education. Through her postdoctoral training in both South Korea and at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Lee notes that she has developed "a keen interest in academics and a desire to delve deeper into not only this area but also basic science in dentistry." She regularly stays abreast of the latest developments in the field, in and out of her expertise. Upon completion of her Doctor of Science in Dentistry degree, Dr. Lee plans to pursue a career in education and research. "I long for the excitement of sharing my knowledge with the next generation of dentists at the forefront of this vast and ever expanding field," she said.



FACULTY

**I-Ping Chen,
D.D.S., M.S.**

University of Connecticut
Health Center

In order to establish a reliable *in vitro* 3-D culture model that can be used routinely in testing endodontic or dental

materials, Dr. I-Ping Chen and team submitted a research proposal entitled, "Application of a 3-dimensional Culture Model in Endodontic Research," during the fall 2014 cycle. It was deemed the highest-scoring faculty proposal, earning Dr. Chen a \$500 award. According to Dr. Chen, she is "interested in finding a system that can fill the gap between *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies."

She has high hopes for the findings of the project and proposes that, "Alvetex, a non-degradable 3-D scaffold, will promote the growth of osteoblast precursors and will enhance their differentiation into mature osteoblasts in comparison to monolayer cultures." Because cells grown on Alvetex can be easily analyzed by imaging techniques, gene expression assays and histology, Dr. Chen adds, "we expect that Alvetex 3-D cultures can be used as a reliable and convenient method to test cellular responses to endodontic materials, especially in the aspects of cytotoxicity and osteogenic potentials."

Dr. Chen has a broad range of interests in endodontics, specifically in regenerative techniques. Her current research be a point of departure for her future endeavors. "Data generated from this specific study will be the basis for developing more complex and improved models for growing and differentiating hiPSCs as a favorable source of cells for tissue engineering in endodontics," said Dr. Chen.

Dr. Chen is an assistant professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

**FALL
WINNERS**

The Foundation's GIVING HISTORY

For the better part of the AAE Foundation's history, it has made endodontic research a priority, providing as much funding as the year allowed. Over time, that support has grown! Thanks to gracious donors, the AAE Foundation has seen steady and impressive growth since the early 2000s in the amount of funding to grants. To make the best use of funds, the Association has identified research priorities that proposals of \$25,000 or more must address. Research Grants are reviewed and evaluated by the AAE Research and Scientific Affairs Committee twice a year, spring and fall.

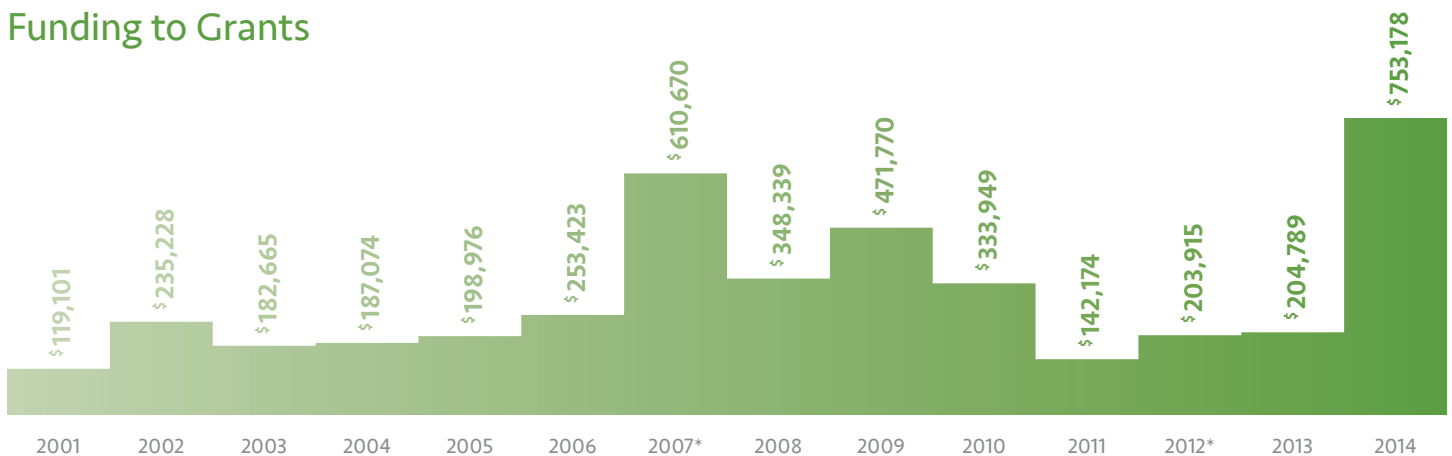
The graphics below show year-by-year research funding activity since 2001.

The AAE Foundation is proud of the research it has funded and feels these statistics tell the story of the organization and its growth over time.

RESEARCH GRANT PRIORITIES (Condensed Version)

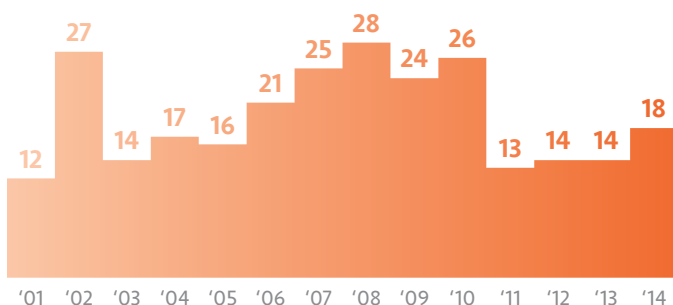
- A. Assessment of Clinical Outcomes
- B. Assessment of New Technology Such as Devices and Materials
- C. Biology of Pulpal and Periradicular Disease
- D. Cracks and Fractures in Teeth
- E. Demographics/Epidemiology of Pulpal and Periradicular Disease
- F. Endodontic/Implant Relationships
- G. External and Internal Resorption
- H. Educational Research
- I. Tissue Engineering—Regeneration of the Pulpodentin Complex and Periradicular Tissues

Funding to Grants

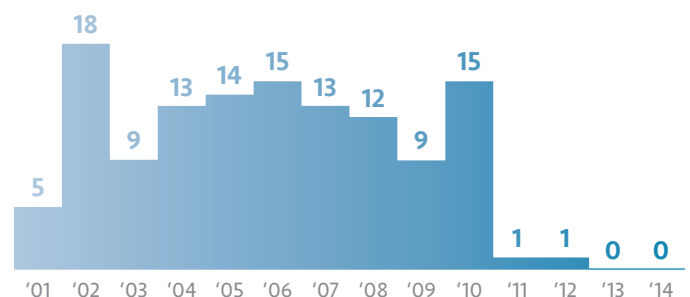


* 2007 and 2014 included special RFPs for implants and regenerative endodontics, respectively.

Number of Grants Funded



Number of Articles Published



The Endodontic Educator FELLOWSHIP AWARD

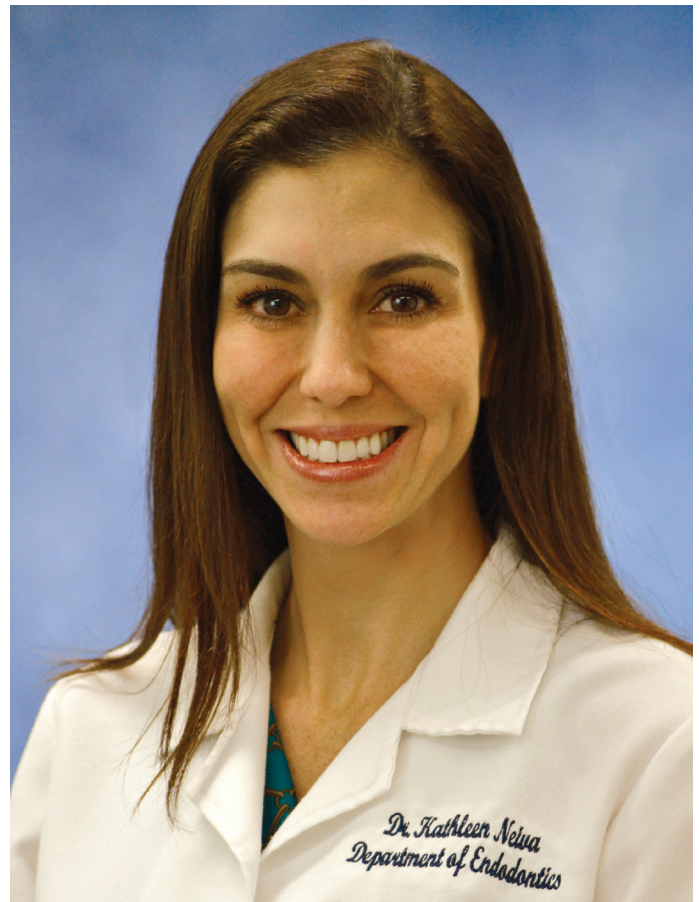
One of the AAE Foundation's most sought-after awards is the Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award. The award honors and gives a monetary gift to those educators who have vowed to give back to the specialty; it really is all about giving!

During the summer of 2014, Kathleen G. Neiva, D.D.S., Ph.D., received the fellowship honor. In a pool of 16 applicants, Dr. Neiva stood out to AAE Foundation and AAE representatives as a dedicated, powerful and passionate educator committed to serving the specialty by educating future generations of endodontists.

After following in her grandfathers' and three uncles' footsteps by becoming a dentist, Dr. Neiva pursued a specialty degree in endodontics from Federal Brazilian University. For four years, she practiced general dentistry with an emphasis in endodontics. In 2001, she moved to the U.S. and joined the University of Michigan, School of Dentistry, teaching endodontics at the preclinical level. In 2003, she was accepted into the Oral Health Sciences Ph.D. program where she worked on her thesis project that focused on the understanding of molecular crosstalk between endothelial cells and head and neck tumor cells. All the while, she juggled other projects and kept up her passion for endodontics. Her research led to several awards and, in 2009, she defended her dissertation with success and received her Ph.D. in Oral Health Sciences. One thing stood constant during her commitment to a full-time Ph.D. program—teaching. She taught endodontics in the undergraduate clinic one day a week.

"Even though my focus at the time was basic science research, I could never be completely away from the clinic," she said. "Being surrounded by students and other faculty members was very stimulating and rewarding."

After spending eight years at the University of Michigan, Dr. Neiva felt compelled to look for a new challenge. In 2010, she joined the University of Florida as a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Oral Biology and a part-time faculty in the Department of Endodontics. One year later she was appointed full-time Clinical Assistant Professor and became more involved in teaching predoctoral students and residents, covering clinics, lectures and seminars, monitoring residents' research projects and conducting her own research. Soon after she committed to teach both predoctoral students and residents, the Chair and Program Director offered her the opportunity to enroll part-time in the residency program, which she completed in 2014. Dr. Neiva serves the College of Dentistry on different decision-making committees and enjoys these opportunities to help the College see its way through



curriculum revisions, the accreditation process and other major milestones.

Dr. Neiva will receive \$50,000 a year for each of the first five years that she has a teaching position. She will be encouraged to take advantage of other opportunities for educators offered by the AAE Foundation. During the 2014-2015 fundraising campaign, Dr. Neiva responded to a volunteer recruitment call directed at young endodontists.

"I have personal interest in fundraising because the AAE Foundation gave me the most valuable award I could ever receive, and I am extremely thankful for that," she said. "The award will allow me to continue my career as a full-time educator and pursue my passion for teaching. I want to fundraise for the Foundation so I can help to support research and other people, the way I was supported."

Dr. Neiva is undoubtedly the epitome of a lifelong learner dedicated to giving back to endodontic education.

THANKS TO YOU!

The AAE Foundation would like to thank the individuals who are making the 2014-2015 fundraising campaign a major success. Beginning with goal setting and volunteer recruitment, the Foundation gained momentum during the summer of 2014. As 2014 ended, and 2015 began, there were many remarkable contributions and strides towards the final

campaign goal of \$1.25 million. However, there is more ground to cover. Leading up the AAE15 in Seattle, Washington, there is still time to make a difference. It is the hope of the Foundation that all endodontists will join the cause to support the specialty of endodontics in whatever capacity they can. There is not a one-size-fits-all contribution or philanthropic

opportunity, but there are a variety of ways to give back to the specialty that has given your career so much meaning.

A special **THANK YOU** to those that have made a contribution, new pledge or increased their pledge during the 2014-2015 fundraising campaign.

As an added incentive, if you make a new pledge of at least \$2,000 or increase your current pledge to the next level before Thursday, May 7, 2015, you will be entered in a drawing to win an Apple iWatch! Two iWatches will be awarded. Winners will be drawn and announced at the Foundation's Live Auction at AAE15 in Seattle!

Please note that this list includes donors that made a contribution between July 1, 2014 and March 1, 2015.

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